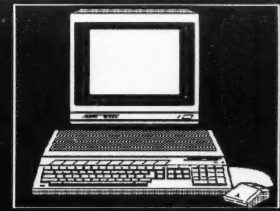


GOOD TASTE



NEWSLETTER OF THE THUNDER BAY ATARI ST ENTHUSIASTS .APRIL 1991

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CLUB NEWS

ATARI BEATS IBM AND AMIGA !

Yes , it was Fred Briden's turn to pin the two supposedly better machines to the mat in the recent Northwest Ontario Science Fair contest !!! Well done, Fred. This contest is held annually to select the best science projects in many categories. One of them includes the use of computers as part of the project. The Atari came out best in the competition against IBM and Amiga machines.

Fred, who is a high school student at F.W.C.I., developed a GFA basic prg. for his organic chemistry project which included the display of molecules and chained structures, and their interaction in complex chemical reactions. As a result of his success at the science fair, Fred has been awarded several prizes from Lakehead University, Westfort Credit Union, Kiwani's Club, Shell Canada, IBM, and the Royal Canadian Legion. He has also been selected to compete in a Canada-wide contest to be held in Vancouver shortly.

His equipment (no offence to Fred's dad, Charlie) consisted of a Mega 2, colour monitor, HP Laser printer, and considerable skills in GFA programming.

From all of us in TASTE, and from me, here's wishing you every success in Vancouver, and in the future, Fred.

AIM

By now, all of you must have gone through their magazine, and will agree with me that it is excellent value for money. As I explained to you at the March meeting, the February issue was sold out by the time we ordered the magazine; back issues were sent to replace the February issue. For those of

you who did not receive a replacement, I shall be sending you one with next month's mailing. Better still come to the next meeting if you can and pick one up.

P.S. Just phoned Patty Rayl of AIM; the April issue is a bit delayed...

P.D. LIBRARY

The AIM disks have begun to arrive and you will be seeing them shortly. In the meantime, we still have a backlog of excellent programs gathered from our subscription to the ST World disks. Jim Dick is working hard at selecting the best files; these will be made available to you as usual in the DOM.

The important thing, again, is to support our Club by buying these disks. Keep in mind that the disks can be mailed to you for \$6.00 each.

THE APRIL MEETING

The April meeting on **Wednesday, April 24th, 7:00 pm** will feature Word Processing, and game demos.

One of the major uses for home computers is word processing, second only to games. I will have available for you some reviews of different word processors, and will demonstrate some of the more useful functions of Word Perfect and the low end 'Regent Word'. This is also an invitation for any of you to demonstrate YOUR favourite word processor at the meeting. And as always, let's share our experiences.

We will also have the Atari Lynx portable game system and some games to try out.

YOUR OPINION, PLEASE

Each week, Ed Giertuga downloads a great deal of material, including ST Report and ZNet, from Genie. These electronic bulletins contain a great deal of up-to-date information of all kinds ... product and game reviews, the Atari scene in general, hardware projects, bug fixes, programming notes, reviews of the latest in PD software, and a great deal more. We should try and use this

valuable resource in some way.

Would you be interested in getting these reports on a disk, and having it available at each meeting for a small fee of say \$3.00. Ed can be paid a remuneration for his trouble.

by Neville Denetto

SECRETARY'S REPORT

During the March meeting, basically all that happened, was that Neville gave us a very in depth review on Pagestream. From what I saw of his demo, I was very impressed with the program. It has basic features like medium resolution compatibility, which is very handy for all of us with colour monitors. In comparison to Calamus, Pagestream fared very well. Pagestream has more standard fonts, and it has more control over the fonts, meaning you can get a lot more options like double underlining, mirror, etc. Pagestream also has the very handy feature that when you importing text, the excess text on one page automatically gets transferred to the next page. The Pagestream manual is a lot easier to use than the nightmarish one you get with Calamus. Other than the fact that Calamus prints a little faster, there is no visible difference in the quality of the print.

Both programs, Pagestream, and Calamus, kick major butt when compared to the extremely high priced PC versions of desktop publishing, but heh, didn't we buy this machine for POWER without the PRICE???

Neville also mentioned that a certain paper called Island Laser is the better paper for us fortunate ones with laser and ink-jet printers. This paper is supposed to be a better quality of paper which doesn't smudge or curl.

Other than that, Neville showed us the DOM.

by Fred Briden

CEBIT

CeBIT PERSONAL REPORT #1

from Tim Reyes, Maxwell CPU as told to John Nagy

Tim Reyes, owner of MAXWELL CPU of Colorado, just returned from Hannover where he attended the CeBIT Computer and Electronics Show.

"The CeBit shows are the biggest thing that happen in Hannover, Germany. They expected 300,000 people this year, and it looks like about 500,000 attended. The facilities for the show are huge, and there are many separate halls. One was dedicated to CAD-CAM systems, another to Networking. There were FOUR halls for personal and mid-size computers, and Atari shared theirs with the likes of Microsoft and Compaq.

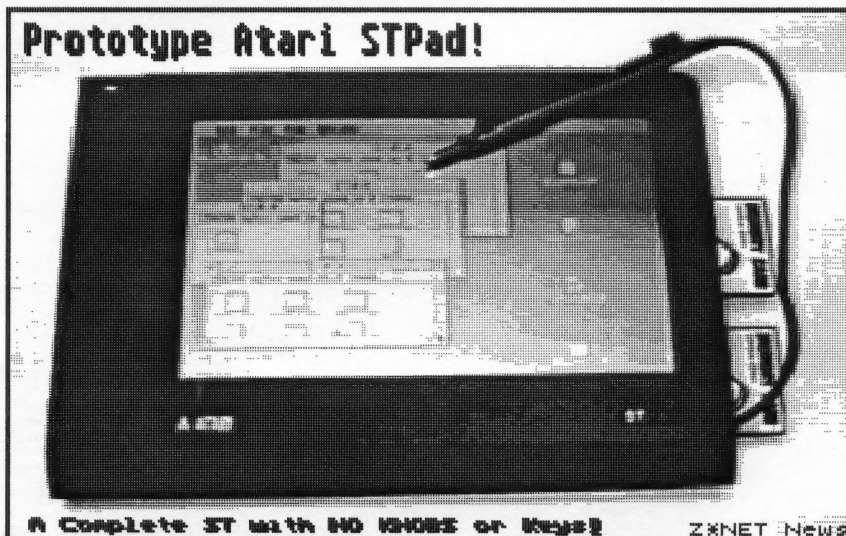
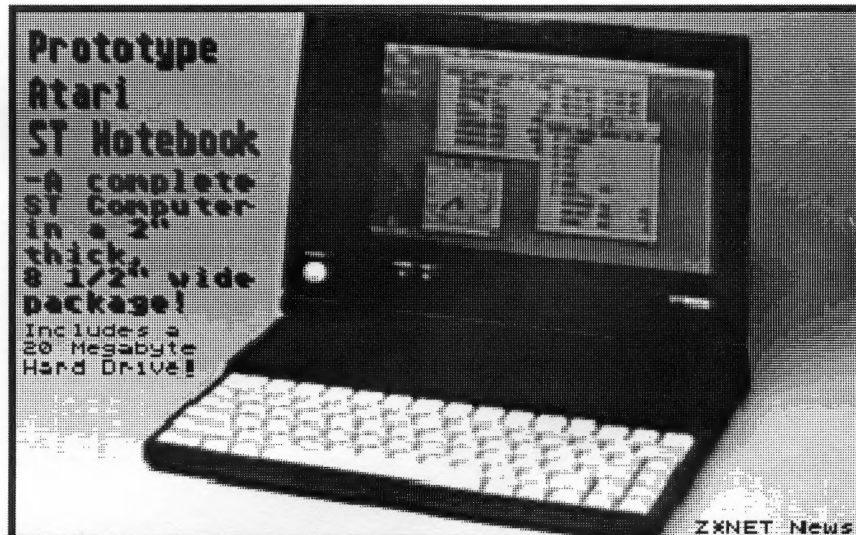
"Atari's area was as big as anyone's, and it was definitely busier than most other areas. The color scheme was lots of white and blue, with a white scaffolding overhead that had illuminated Fuji and Atari signs throughout it. The floor space was about three times that of the recent COMDEX shows. In all, there were about 30 vendors inside the Atari area. The only U.S. developer I saw was Dave Small of Gadgets by Small, maker of SPECTRE Macintosh emulators and CPU accelerators. The others were all European, showing a wide range of products. One of the ones that I particularly noticed was MULTIGEM, a multi-tasking GEM interface by MAXXON, running on the TT and ST.

"Atari itself showed the ST NOTEBOOK, which I think looked just about finished and very good, as good as anything like it I've seen. The velvety jet-black case looks great, and it really looked like it could be a production unit. Only 2" thick and 8 1/2" x 11" when open (half that when folded shut). The STPad is not nearly as finished looking.

UNIX was shown for the TT, but is not ready yet for sale. It can't run ST or GEM programs yet in windows, and so is not available. The UNIX and XWindows appeared to be completed and running fine. Very impressive. Of the many machines at the show, about half were TT's and half were MEGA/Ste's. A few "old" Mega machines were there too. A long table of PORTFOLIOS drew a lot of attention, as people could play with them as they wished."

FACT SHEET:	ST Notebook	STPad
Processor:	68000	68000
Clock Frequency:	8Mhz	8Mhz
Main Memory:	1 or 4 MB	1 or 4 MB
Hard Disk:	20MB	None
Interfaces:	2 x MIDI RS232 Parallel DMA + FDD	MIDI RS232 Parallel DMA
Numeric Keyboard (external)		
Keyboard:	04/04 Keys (STE/TT Compat) Built-in Joypad	
Options:	Fax Modem Hard Disk: 40 or 60 MB External Keyboard Mouse 1.44MB Floppy Drive (external)	
Operating Time:	Max 10 Hours
Slots:	2 Silicon Drives 4MB ea.
Screen:	LCD (640/400 pixels)

SEE PHOTOS BELOW



Other notes from CeBit, gathered from all over:

The MEGAFILE name will be dropped. A German company was using it before Atari. Shown but not bally-hoed was an "AtariFile 200", a new hard drive in the old Mega standard case.

It was mentioned that the TT will likely be available with up to a 1.2 GIGABYTE internal drive, ideal for UNIX users that really eat storage space. A TT/030 with 28 MEG RAM, 1.2 Gig HD... that is Serious Stuff.

John Nagy did VIDI-ST pictures from the press photographs and placed them on GENie, and other BBS networks.

ST-NOTEBOOK for the briefcase.

The new ST-Notebook from Atari fits in any briefcase, and with a weight of only around 1 kg is highly portable. It offers all what you when working and travelling at the same time: 1 MB main memory, 20 MB hard disk, joystick instead of mouse and an LCD screen with a resolution of 640 x 400 pixels.

THE ST PAD

Computer without mouse or keyboard
Atari is showing for the first time at the CeBit fair 1991 a prototype computer where the data entry no longer takes place with a keyboard or mouse, but with a pen which is used to write directly onto the screen. The STPad thus offers computers beginners, too, a simple way of using modern technology.

Atari's TT/030 with UNIX.

Atari is now offering a Unix for its flagship, the 32 Mhz 32-bit model TT/030. The Developers Package V includes in addition to Unix V Rel. 4.0 a graphical interface based on X/Window and OSF/Motif and the software tools GNU C, C++ and XFacemaker 2. They offer powerful possibilities for developing graphical applications.

MORE MEMORY for the ST and TT.

As a bonus for the large number of ST users, Atari is now showing on the CeBit fair 1991 several new hard disks. Different models offer a range of capacities from 83 to 676 megabytes. At the same time, the average access time is only 12 - 15 ms.

For the flagship of the ST fans, the TT, new memory expansion modules are also being shown: they extend the main memory to a total of 26 MB.

Enough to be able to keep today's

memory-hungry applications programs - such as those in the fields of CAD and DTP - largely in main memory.

CD-ROM

Large amounts of data can today be easily stored on CD-ROM. Atari is exhibiting a new CD-ROM device at the CeBit Fair 1991 which can be connected to the STE and TT computer series and has a storage capacity of 500 MB. The Cobra retrieval software for the ST is available to efficiently manage the data on the CD-ROM. The CD drive can also be used as an audio CD player and costs significantly less than 1000 DM.

It has only an eject button and what appears to be a headphone jack and volume control on the front panel. It looks much more like a Syquest removable hard drive in a tiny case than anything else. "1000 DM" is perhaps \$600 US, but hardware prices usually are cheaper in the US than the exchange rate translation. Sources at the show indicated that they expected the US price to be closer to \$400. The CD device was the ONLY new announced product with a price. This reinforces speculation that the CD may be ready for distribution almost immediately.

CEBIT REPORTS #2

Courtesy of PD JOURNAL, Christian Strasheim, Micheal Schuetz. Translation from German by Kevin Festner and John Nagy

[PD JOURNAL is a popular German Atari magazine, and their staff attended the CeBIT computer show in Hannover. Here are some highlights of the extended coverage of CeBIT that PD JOURNAL prepared for their own magazine, and shared with Z*NET and ATARIUSER magazines in the USA.

Most of the background material and technical specifications for the new ST BOOK and STPad are not included here; see last week's Z*NET for the complete descriptions and specifications. Some of the language presented here may seem a bit odd; we are trying to preserve the original intent and construction of the German wording rather than to add our own interpretation. This will allow the reader to draw their own conclusions about what may really be coming from Atari. Our proposed interpretations are enclosed in BRACKETS.]

"STACY-LIGHT" - the ST Notebook
Ready Summer 1991!:

...In the USA and Europe from about

1992 an internal modem will be available for the ST Notebook. It will be capable of conventional telecommunication as well as able to send and receive FAX messages.

The most surprising is the fact that the ST-Notebook will be available in the summer of 1991! Alwin Stumpf, CEO of Atari-Germany and now being billed as the "President of Worldwide Sales and Marketing" for Atari, says that the ST Book could be out this summer and will cost around \$2,000.00 in the USA. Due to the fluctuations in the exchange rate it is hard to predict what it will cost in Marks (German currency).

STPAD- to ALSO be a 1991 Product!

The keyboardless STPad computer is also being discussed as a product to be in general production "Late in 1991". Projected price for the base machine (1 Meg RAM) is about \$1,500.00 US.

NEW CD-ROM

The new CD-ROM CDAR505 was introduced. It has both a SCSI and ASCI Interface. The included software allows it to be used with all of the ST line as well as the SCSI interface on the TT. The cost is about \$400 US!

UNIX & RAM FOR THE TT

After some delay, Atari will be distributing (from about the middle of April), Unix system V Release 4.0, which will be laid over the X-Window release 11.4. The user interface is OSF Motif. The developer package include a C and C++ compiler and debugger. A HardDrive of about 200 MBytes and more ram is recommended for a machine running UNIX.

FSM-GDOS

The form of the distribution of the new outline font oriented GDOS which can hopefully be answered in the month of April.

OTHER EXHIBITORS :

Application Systems

Phoenix, a Heidelberg computer firm, introduced a new database, and also Version 2.1 of Script II which now comes with quick and efficient hyphenation.

Data Becker

With the title 'The Quick Door' (Quick start), Data Becker publishes an array of books covering well-known Programs for

the Atari ST. In about 150 pages, the reader can ascertain how to quickly and easily use the most important features. The 'Quick Start' guide for Script II is available for about \$12.50. Available in the coming months are 'Quick Start' guides for Calamus and Becker Design.

Begemann & Niemeyer

Riemann II is the next generation of the well liked mathematic program, Riemann. Thanks to its continuing use of the GEM, Riemann II operates in all resolutions and also can be used on the TT. 2 and 3-D graphics can be represented regardless of the resolution. The Price is \$175 and there is a rebate for students.

Compo Software

CoCom is the name of a new desktop making the ST and TT easier to use.

That's Write 2.0 is a fully WYSIWYG editor [DTP?] with an ability for previewing documents. Organizational functions ranks among its new features. [Document Processor?]

3K Computerbild

The CD (Color Design) version of Retouche Professional expands the world of word processing by giving one the choice of 16.7 million colors and in addition four-color separation. With the aid of a Camera-Scanner from the Opotech company with 5000 d.p.i. resolution, it can give your work that professional look.

GfA

GfA basic for the TT is a reworked and expanded version of GfA Basic 3.5, which can now correctly operate in all resolutions. The 32 KByte ceiling for screen storage has been circumvented. The update from 3.5 to 3.6 costs about \$35.

Logilex

Janus, an object oriented graphical program, is the foundation for TT-Works [similar to Apple's WORKS series?] an integrated package for the Atari TT.

Omikron

Omikron has tackled the project to provide a BASIC for the TT. Omikron also debut Mortimer Plus, which should shortly be available.

Overscan

Overscan, the Berlin based computer firm, showed a professional and expensive Genlock for the ST. The price is about \$550. It works in connection

with overscan and offers a resolution of 625 lines and supports the PAL standard. Also new is the Reflex 1024, a VME graphics card for the Mega-ST, which is capable of producing 1024 X 1024 pixel resolution. The card itself costs about \$650, and the card and the A4 Monitor Qume Crystal Screen 885 can be purchased together for \$1350. The company also produces software which can automatically switch to a connected SM124 monitor for those programs which cannot run with the graphics card.

Small Hard Drive from Quantum (size 2.5")

The new Quantum Hard drive is smaller than a pack of cigarettes and is best used in the Notebook. The drive is available in a 40 and 80 MByte size with an access time of 19 milliseconds and weighs 150 to 230 grams.

Richter

Richter provides a software package which can convert GfA Basic code to ANSI standard C. The special GfA Basic functions can be converted into C libraries. The basic version, which contains an extensive manual, costs \$135, and the professional pack costs around \$300.

Rossipaul

Rossipaul publishes new guide to software for the ST and TT and is a 350 page tome which costs \$20.00. It provides the reader with a summary of all the important software for the ST and TT.

SciLab

SciLab showed its Version 2.1, the most recent version of its Calligrapher software. It will be released in the summer and offers many functions allowing easy production of Tables and is supported by GDOS and Line Art fonts.

Shift

Interface is a new resource editor from the Shift firm out of Flensburg. The program uses a desktop which allows seven windows to be opened at the same time. It supports mouse as well as keyboard use.

Integrated into the environment is an icon editor. Interface will become a new standard in Resource Data processing. It will be available in the summer at a cost of \$50. Cypress, the new word processing program from Shift, will be released in May at a cost of \$180. It is equipped with many new and interesting functions such a spell checking and syllabification. It includes printer fonts

and styles, and Signum fonts can also be used.

Sybex

It was announced at CeBit that Sybex will release a 1300 page programmer's book which covers the STE and TT models exclusively.

Programmers can find all the information they need concerning the Atari, and it is to be available in a few weeks.

TKR

TKR, introduced at CeBit, is a solution for sending and receiving FAX messages on the ST. Working in combination with a Modem, FAX's can be sent and received. The cost for the Modem and Software is \$450.

Trade-It has introduced a new Handscanner from Logitech. It can scan up to 256 shades of grey. Still better, improved, and quicker is the Avant Vector, especially the semi-automatic real-time vectorizing capabilities. With manual post-processing, it can compare closely with the subtle shadings of the original. The Program Repro-Studio allows further processing of the scanned pictures with the option of colorization.

The above two articles were downloaded from Genie by Ed Giertuga.

APRIL DOM

Following is a list of some of the programs that will be on the April disk of the month. For a complete list and a look at the DOM make sure to make it to the April meeting. Quite a few interesting programs again this month, so here it goes...

COLLECTOR: a stamp and coin collector's database

DCOPY36: latest version of this favourite

DEKSW11: change your screen resolutions without too much fuss

STATUS: gives system information

ZFLASH: z-modem downloads for flash

ZMODEM: best for downloading on Genie or Delphie.

DESKMNGR33: setup your auto folder, desk accessories etc. at bootup.

HDCOPY: hard drive backups.

LIST104: ascii file viewer.

POOLFIX: bug fix for use with tos 1.4.

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